

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 remain pending in the instant application. Claim 1 is amended in this Amendment as described below. Claims 2 and 10-16 were previously cancelled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to replace the term “contains” with the transitional phrase consisting essentially of thereby clarifying what both of the addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions claimed in the subject method actually consist essentially of. Independent claim 1 has also been amended to add the specific components of the first and second addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions in addition to the first and second adhesion promoters as originally claimed. More specifically, the following components have been added to each of the first and second addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions of independent claim 1: (A) an organopolysiloxane having an average of at least two silicon-bonded alkenyl groups per molecule, (B) an organopolysiloxane having an average of at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, (C) an hydrosilylation catalyst for addition reactions, and optional additives selected from the group of fillers, addition-reaction inhibitors, dyes, pigments, flame retardants, and solvents. This amendment makes it clear that the first and second addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions consist essentially of the components and optional additives described above in addition to the first and second adhesion promoters as originally claimed, thereby excluding additional components that would materially effect the basic and novel characteristics of the compositions specifically recited in the claimed method as described additionally below. Notably, within the context of amended independent claim 1 and the resulting exclusion of ‘materially-affecting’ components, the first and second

addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions still account for more than one (i.e., a blend of) components (A), (B) and/or (C). As an illustrative example, claim 1 as amended still accounts for a blend of organopolysiloxanes having an average of at least two silicon-bonded alkenyl groups per molecule, i.e., two or more component (A)'s. Support for the amendment to independent claim 1 can be found in at least paragraphs [0016]-[0022], [0031], [0033], and [0034] of the specification as published. As such, no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1 and 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,714,265 to Meguriya et al. (hereinafter "the '265 patent") as evidenced by United States Patent No. 5,585,445 to Meguriya et al.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 1 as anticipated by the '265 patent is overcome through the instant amendment. In particular, by specifying that the claimed first and second addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions consist essentially of (A) the organopolysiloxane having an average of at least two silicon-bonded alkenyl groups per molecule, (B) the organopolysiloxane having an average of at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, (C) the hydrosilylation catalyst for addition reactions, optional additives selected from the group of fillers, addition-reaction inhibitors, dyes, pigments, flame retardants, and solvents, the first adhesion promoter (for the first addition-curable organopolysiloxane composition), and the second adhesion promoter (for the second addition-curable organopolysiloxane composition) as originally claimed, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is both novel and non-obvious over the disclosure and teachings of the '265 patent. The compositions of the '265 patent contain additional

essential components other than components (A), (B), (C), an adhesion promoter, and optional additives, as instantly claimed. In particular, the '265 patent also requires a curable epoxy resin and an organosilicon compound having at least one silanol group in a molecule to be present in the compositions taught therein when components (A), (B), and (C) are present.

The '265 patent discloses a layered composite material comprising a cured silicone rubber composition and a cured silicone-epoxy resin composition which is cured, in part, by the curable epoxy resin and the organosilicon compound having at least one silanol group in a molecule. The presence of the curable epoxy resin and the organosilicon compound having at least one silanol group in a molecule are clearly necessary within the disclosure of the '265 patent, as evidenced throughout the disclosure of the '265 patent including at least at column 6, lines 36-64. Further, the '265 patent teaches that the organosilicon compound having at least one silanol group in a molecule is necessary to intercrosslink with the epoxy resin and accelerate curing of the cured silicone-epoxy resin composition at column 9, lines 55-61.

Cured silicone-epoxy resin compositions have decreased heat and light stability as compared to addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions which are free of curable epoxy resins and organosilicon compounds having at least one silanol group in a molecule, such as those instantly claimed. Stated differently, inclusion of curable epoxy resins and organosilicon compounds having at least one silanol group in a molecule in any addition-curable organopolysiloxane composition materially affects heat and light stability of that composition. Independent claim 1, as it presently stands, excludes additional components (beyond what is claimed) that would have a material effect on the basic and novel characteristics of the compositions specifically recited in the claimed method. In this regard, independent claim 1

clearly excludes curable epoxy resins and organosilicon compounds having at least one silanol group in a molecule such that independent claim 1 is novel in view of the disclosure of the '265 patent. The remaining claims 3-9 each depend upon the novel and non-obvious features of independent claim 1 such that the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also novel and non-obvious. As such, the Applicants have overcome the rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 under U.S.C. 102(b).

The Applicants respectfully submit that the instant claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested. This Amendment is timely filed within a one-month extension of time and the proper fee for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith; thus, it is believed that no additional fees are due. However, if necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC for any additional fees or to credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS PLLC

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Date

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